

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
CIVIL AIR PATROL

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15, 1942

Subject: Aviation Cadet Requirements Revised

To: All Wing Commanders

1. Revision of Aviation Cadet requirements for bombardiers, navigators and pilots in the Army Air Corps through reduction of the age limit to 18 years, institution of uniform simplified test in place of the previously required written examination or college credits, and extension of eligibility to married men, was announced today by the War Department as follows:

"In the past, application for Aviation Cadet Training was limited to men between 20 and 26 years of age. The new age limits provide for the acceptance of men between the ages of 18 and 26, inclusive. This applies not only to aircrew members, as bombardiers, navigators and pilots are designated, but also to Air Corps ground officers, who, as Aviation Cadets, receive instruction in armament, engineering, communications, photography and meteorology.

"A revision already in effect is the extension of eligibility to married men. Heretofore, only unmarried men have been given training as Aviation Cadets, but under the change authorized a married man is eligible providing he submits, along with his application for enlistment, a written statement that his dependents have adequate means of support. This revision applies equally to candidates for aircrew training and for training in the ground courses.

"The new 'screening test' authorized will be given to all applicants for aircrew training as bombardiers, navigators and pilots. There will be no exemptions because of college credits earned. The test, in which the applicant will choose the correct answer from five possible answers given for each question, is designed to determine the applicant's fitness to pursue successfully the courses of instruction in Air Corps training schools.

"Through the wide revisions in requirements approximately 2,000,000 more men become eligible for enlistment in the Army Air Corps.

"Enlistment for such training is open to civilians and to the personnel of any component of the Army. An applicant must be in excellent health and have been a citizen of the United States for at least the 10-year period immediately preceding enlistment.

"Immediate enlistment and appointment as an Aviation Cadet is possible under a revision of procedure and the establishment

of an increased number of Cadet Examining Boards in each of the nine Corps Areas in the Nation. Application for information may be made to any United States Army Recruiting Station, to any Corps Area Headquarters, or to the adjutant of any Army post or organization.

"An applicant will be directed to the nearest Cadet Examining Board, to which he should take three letters of recommendation signed by citizens of established standing in his community, and a birth certificate or other documentary evidence of date of birth.

"He will be given a physical examination similar to that given to Reserve Officers called to active duty, except that as a prospective flying officer he will be required to have '20/20 eyesight' and normal color perception. He will be given the simplified 'screening test' and examined by the board in formal proceedings for the purpose of determining whether he possesses the required moral and character qualifications.

"Whether or not the applicant has passed will be determined immediately by the Cadet Examining Board, and, if successful, the applicant will be enlisted at once, appointed an Aviation Cadet and sent to one of the three Air Corps Replacement Training Centers. There he will be given a physical examination for flying duty and further tests to determine the type of training he is to receive."

2. It is hereby requested that Wing Commanders forward copies of this communication immediately to all Civil Air Patrol units under their command to the end that information regarding these revised aviation cadet requirements will be made generally available to all who may be interested without delay.

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